

**REMARKS**

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable Claim 3. Claim 3 has been canceled. No new matter is added. Upon entry of the Amendment, which is respectfully requested, Claims 1, 4-7, 9 and 10 will be pending.

At page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 1, 5-7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,026,755. At page 3 of the Office Action, Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,026,755 in view of WO 01/79362.

Claim 3 is not subject to these rejections and indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the amendment incorporating Claim 3 into independent Claim 1, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-7, 9 and 10 depend from Claim 1, and thus, are patentable by virtue of their dependencies from Claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

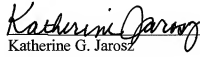
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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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